

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 1, 2, and 17 have been amended.

Claims 18-36 have been added.

The amendment of Claims 1, 2, and 17 are supported by the corresponding claims as originally presented. New Claims 18-36 are supported by the specification as filed, for example, at page 5, line 17 to page 8, line 24 and the Examples.

No new matter has been added by the present amendment.

REMARKS

Claims 13-22 are pending in the present application.

The rejection of Claims 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is obviated by amendment.

Applicants have amended Claims 20 and 21 to add the omitted formulae.

Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is requested.

The objection to Claims 7 and 13-20 is obviated by amendment.

Claim 7 has been canceled only to expedite allowance of Claims 13-22. Cancellation of Claim 7 is requested without prejudice toward their presentation in a subsequent continuation application.

Claim 13 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

Withdrawal of this ground of objection is requested.

The rejection of Claims 1-12 and 23-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over WO 01/34631 in view of Gante or WO 97/35199, is obviated by cancellation of Claims 1-12 and 23-27.

Applicants make no statement with respect to the propriety of this ground of rejection and in no way acquiesce to the same. Applicants have canceled Claims 1-12 and 23-27 only to expedite allowance of Claims 13-22. Cancellation of Claims 1-12 and 23-27 is requested without prejudice toward their presentation in a subsequent continuation application.

Acknowledgement that this ground of rejection has been withdrawn is requested.

The objection to the specification is obviated by amendment. Withdrawal of this ground of objection is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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